

December 05, 2007

Congressman Akin Opposes Addition of Hate Crimes Legislation to Defense Authorization Bill

*Will not sign conference committee report*

Washington, DC - Congressman Todd Akin (R-MO), the ranking member of the Oversight and Investigations subcommittee and conferee on the Fiscal Year 2008 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), will not sign the Conference Committee report if it adds politically charged and extraneous legislation to the historically bipartisan bill that authorizes expenditures for our national defense.

“By adding the hate crimes provisions to the Defense Authorization, the chances of the bills timely passage would be greatly reduced,” said Akin. “Moreover, with this proposed provision, the majority would be setting an unfortunate precedent of politicizing the annual defense budget for years to come.”

“The proposed addition of this extraneous provision in the defense authorization bill serves as the latest example of how the majority is playing politics with our men and women in uniform,” said Akin. “As a conferee on the National Defense Authorization Act, I cannot support the addition of this extraneous and overtly political language.”

“It is truly unfortunate that the majority is more interested in scoring political points than producing legislation that helps our troops and having it signed by the President,” concluded Akin.